

REMARKS

Responsive to the final Office Action mailed 15 September, the present paper is timely filed on or before 15 December 2008. By the present paper, no claims are cancelled and no claims are amended. Claims 1 - 13 are in the Application.

Verified translations of the priority documents are filed herewith to perfect Applicants' priority claim. The Office acknowledged the priority claim in the Office Action mailed 18 March 2008.

Because the present paper fully addresses all rejections of record, entry of the paper, entry of the translations of the priority documents, and reconsideration of the Application are respectfully requested.

Perfection of Applicants' Priority Claim:

Applicants have claimed the benefit of the filing date of three Japanese Patent Applications: JP 2003-282828, filed 30 July 2003; JP 2003-100646, filed 03 April 2003; and JP 2003-069228, filed 14 March 2003. Verified translation of the three priority documents are filed herewith.

Applicants draw the Office's attention to the disclosure of JP 2003-282828. Inspection of this priority document and the specification of the present Application shows that the two are substantially identical. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present Application is entitled to at least the benefit of the 30 July filing date of JP 2003-282828.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claim 1 - 13 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Morihito et al., JP 2000-144129, in view of Setoguchi et al., JP 2003-336-055. Because Setoguchi et al. is not prior art to the present Application, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Setoguchi et al. published on 23 November 2003, more than two months after the filing date of Applicants' JP 2003-282828. Because the disclosure of JP 2003-282828 is essentially identical to the disclosure of the instant specification, claims 1 -13 are entitled to at least the benefit of the filing date of JP 2003-282828. Applicants were in possession of embodiments falling within the scope of the claims before the publication date of Setoguchi et al. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Setoguchi et al. is not properly applied against the instant claims and that the rejection should be reversed.

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In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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enc: Translations of Priority Documents:

- (1) JP 2003-282828
- (2) JP 2003-100646
- (3) JP 2003-069228 and
a Verification of Translation